Method and Apparatus for Maintaining Data Integrity Across Distributed Computer Systems

1. **Title of Invention:** Method and Apparatus for Maintaining Data Integrity Across Distributed Computer Systems.

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2. **Cross-References to Related Applications, If Any**.

This application is a Continuation of U.S. Provisional Patent Application having Serial Number 60/131,019 filed on April 26, 1999, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Serial No. 09/408,213 filed September 17, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/829,919 filed July 15, 1997, which is a continuation of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/021,980 filed July 18, 1996. Each of these related applications are incorporated by reference, herein.

now US Patent 6,239,800

now US Patent 5,958,012

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3. **Statement as to Rights to Inventions Made Under Federally Sponsored Research and Development, If Any**.

This patent is not based upon any federally sponsored research and development.

4. **Background and Summary**

Applicants' system is in the field of software-implemented methods, systems and articles of manufacture for maintaining data integrity across distributed computer systems.

Several different technologies presently exist to support information processing in distributed environments. Each such technology has been designed to meet a specific purpose. Remote Procedure Call systems, for example, permit a program running on one computer to invoke a function on another computer. Object Request Brokers provide a similar service, but with some minor variations that follow the conventions of object technology. Database access systems let a program retrieve data from a database on another computer. Messaging systems let one program communicate with another on a remote computer, sometimes storing the message if necessary and forwarding it when communication can be established. Publish and subscribe systems permit one program to broadcast a message, and only those systems that have subscribed to that message receive it. Several other technologies exist in this area.